2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

5 May 2010
English
Original: Arabic

New York, 3-28 May 2010

Article IV of the Treaty

Nuclear energy for peaceful purposes

Introduction

The Government of Iraq is submitting this paper at a time when the Security Council is reviewing the disarmament-related restrictions imposed on Iraq pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions, foremost among which are resolutions 687 (1991) and 707 (1991). The paper aims to set out the position of Iraq with respect to the Treaty insofar as it relates to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Government of Iraq is circulating this paper as an official document of the 2010 Review Conference because it wishes to officially document its position, reinforce its endeavours to lift the restrictions that have been imposed on it, and contribute to international efforts to make Conference recommendations that will lead to progress being made towards the effective and comprehensive implementation of the Treaty.

- The Government of Iraq affirms the inalienable right of States to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and, to that end, to obtain and exchange technology without discrimination and without the imposition of any obstacles, binding conditions or selective restrictions that would not be in conformity with the spirit and provisions of the Treaty.

- The Government of Iraq emphasizes the role played by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in assisting States parties to develop the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and requests it to reduplicate its efforts, through the technical cooperation programme, and reinforce its fundamental role in facilitating the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries. The Government also affirms that IAEA, by virtue of its mandate and professional expertise, remains the ideal framework whereby the peaceful nature of a nuclear programme may be guaranteed. As needed, it would be possible, within the IAEA framework, to devise an acceptable and non-discriminatory mechanism to enhance the transparency of such a programme, and to make a commitment to find a multilateral and non-discriminatory system for that purpose. It should be re-emphasized that nuclear cooperation between States should take place against the background and in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.

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- The Government of Iraq supports the efforts exerted by States parties with a view to achieving the universality of the comprehensive safeguards system. However, at the same time, it affirms that the Additional Protocol is voluntary, and cannot therefore be considered as a precondition for the import of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

- The Government of Iraq follows the initiatives that have been proposed relating to the import of nuclear fuel, and affirms that it is important that under no pretext should pressure be brought to bear on States parties to prevent them from trying to develop or obtain any nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. The Government believes that the IAEA proposal to establish an enriched uranium bank is interesting and merits consideration.

- IAEA and nuclear-weapon States should be called upon to concentrate and develop technical assistance in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to States parties to the Treaty.

- States parties to the Treaty have agreed to refrain from developing or possessing nuclear weapons provided they may obtain nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, including research and other activities for which nuclear fuel is essential. The supply of that fuel is one of the fundamental issues that is being discussed in the international arena and at the 2010 Review Conference, and in that respect the Government of Iraq supports the IAEA initiative to establish the aforementioned bank, provided all the necessary assurances are given that States will maintain their right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and their right to enrich uranium and obtain advanced technology and enriched uranium without discrimination and at fair prices that are commensurate with their endeavours to realize development for their peoples.